

Message Text

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12

ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SS-15 SP-02 INR-07 IO-13 NSC-05 DODE-00

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR KS

SUBJ: REACTION TO SECRETARY'S JULY 22 SEATTLE SPEECH

REF: SEOUL 5701

1. OVER WEEKEND JULY 24 AND 25, ALL MAJOR SEOUL NEWSPAPERS CARRIED HIGHLY FAVORABLE EDITORIAL COMMENT ON SECRETARY'S JULY 22 SEATTLE SPEECH. EDITORIALISTS AGREED TONE OF SECRETARY'S STATEMENT APPROPRIATELY STRONG AND WOULD CONTRIBUTE TOWARD PROTECTING KOREA'S VITAL INTERESTS AND PRESERVING PEACE IN THE REGION. TIMING OF SPEECH PRAISED AS LIKELY TO HAVE WORTHWHILE IMPACT ON UPCOMING CONFERENCE OF NON-ALIGNED NATIONS AT COLOMBO AND ON UNGA.

2. COMMON THEMES IN EDITORIALS INCLUDED: A) SECRETARY'S PRESENTATION AND POSITION WAS BALANCED AND THUS, EVEN IF NOT ACCEPTED BY PRC, USSR AND DPRK, IT WILL MAKE FAVORABLE IMPRESSION ON NON-ALIGNED COUNTRIES, ENHANCE THEIR APPRECIATION OF ROK-US POSITION, AND BLUNT DPRK DIPLOMATIC OFFENSIVE FOR A "FALSE PEACE"; B) SECRETARY'S STATEMENT, WHILE WELL TIMED AND AN EXCELLENT STRATEGIC MOVE TO COUNTER DPRK DIPLOMATIC MANEUVERS, WAS SINCERE AND PROVIDES THE ONLY REALISTIC AND RATIONAL PATH TO A SOLUTION FOR TENSIONS IN THE AREA; C) SECRETARY'S STATEMENT RECONFIRMED US POLICY TOWARD KOREA. IN THE WORDS OF INDEPENDENT SHINA ILBO THE SPEECH "HAS TOTALLY REMOVED SKEPTICISM ABOUT US POLICY BOTH AT HOME AND ABROAD."

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3. OFFICIAL ROKG REACTION ALSO HIGHLY FAVORABLE AND FOLLOWED
LINES SIMILAR TO THEMES DEVELOPED IN EDITORIAL COMMENT. FOREIGN
MINISTER PARK TOLD AMBASSADOR JULY 24 THAT HE CONSIDERED SECRE-
TARY'S SPEECH EXCELLENT AND PUT ROK/US SIDE IN BEST POSSIBLE
STANCE.
STERN

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